

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: YWCA of Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-0130244****Project Title:**

YWCA of Anchorage - Youth Development Programs

State Funding Requested: \$ 50,000**House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Programs that help youth learn to develop self sufficiency, make healthy choices and build good relationships with teachers and other adults.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$138,500**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds			\$5,000	2009		
Other	\$2,000	2009	\$81,500	2009		
Total	\$2,000		\$86,500			

*Explanation of Other Funds:**secured: \$2,000 of program income**requested: \$15,000 ConocoPhillips; \$6,000 from annual fundraiser; \$50,000 AK Ski for Women; \$5,000 from Nordstorm's; \$2,500 from Fred Meyer's; \$3,000 from AK Community Foundation.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Money will go to fund multiple projects run by the YWCA. All programs are geared toward teaching young people resiliency, improve their academic skills and how to make healthy choices. Most programs are offered during school lunch breaks or after school. Some programs target involvement and empowerment of young girls particularly in the fields of science and math.

These programs are strongly supported at the local level by both the Anchorage School District and Municipality of Anchorage (please see letters of support). The YWCA of Anchorage programs meet the standard for state funding by building directly upon students educational experiences in school and teaching young people methods for making healthy choices such as avoiding drugs or other unhealthy behaviors.

YWCA currently draws funds from a number of sources to run these programs. State funds would be leveraged against grants from the private sector, as well as money raised directly by the YWCA. This year, due to shifts in funding sources, the YWCA is requesting state funds to cover a funding gap.

Project Timeline:

Expenditures will occur throughout 2009 as the program proceeds

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

YWCA of Anchorage

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Heather Arnett

Phone Number: (907) 644-9601

Address: 324 E 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

Email: harnett@ywcaak.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

YWCA Anchorage Youth Development Programs

\$50,000 to support these effective programs that strengthen Anchorage's diverse youth.

Our youth programs work with underserved youth ages 9-19 from middle to low income households and various ethnic backgrounds. All programs strive to empower Anchorage youth to become independent thinkers through open communication and to assist them in acquiring the tools to be resilient, self sufficient and to have a strong sense of self that allows them to make healthy choices.

Girls Circle and Boys Council – In Anchorage, 23 groups, serving nearly 200 youth, will be facilitated during lunch or after school based on a core model program implemented across the U.S. It is designed to give students K-12 a safe place to discuss issues free of ridicule and judgment. They learn resiliency, how to make healthy choices, and how to develop their full potential.

Girls Action Team –

15 high school and college students lead a leadership development and community engagement youth council. The girls learn empathy, self confidence and respect for self and others by participating in the GAT and participants help staff determine the needs of the youth in the community and develop programs that meet those needs. The Girls Action Team will develop a mentoring component for youth as well as develop their leadership skills.

Activity Center / Summer, Winter, and Spring Break Programs–

Engaging and diverse classes that help students connect with youth from different cultures in the community and learn fun and exciting new things, including technology, while having a positive place to go. At least 65 youth will participate.

TechGYRLS Program – TechGYRLS is an innovative program to inspire girls to explore careers in science and math by learning about technology through the use of robotics and computer animation. Approximately 15 youth participate in this program.

Multicultural Female Leadership Conference – In partnership with the Anchorage School District, this event targets 250 seventh and eighth grade girls. The leadership conference is designed to empower girls of all races to discover their paths to the future, to build leadership skills and self-confidence and to encourage individual growth.

Young Women / Young Men of Achievement Awards - In an effort to inspire other students to overcome barriers in their lives and work to eliminate racism, this award program recognizes those accomplishments in young women and young men who are juniors in public and private Anchorage schools. They participate as youth leaders and mentors at the Middle School Conference. Approximately 12 youth will be honored.

Our goal is to increase the number of Anchorage's youth that participate in our programs, offer a variety of programs at low or no cost and offer year round after-school, weekend, and school break programs.

Annually we have received small varied grants from the community. Some of our funders are the Alaska Community Foundation, the Alaska Ski for Women, Soroptimist International of Cook Inlet, the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mountain View Weed & Seed Program.



Anchorage School District

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135
(907) 742-4000

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Carol Comeau

March 5, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the request from the YWCA Anchorage for \$50,000 in funding for its Youth Development Programs. The YWCA's Youth Development Programs serve 560 youth each year.

I would like to particularly note the organization's Girls Circle and Boys Council Programs. These discussion groups, led by trained adult facilitators, are held at 18 different K-12 Anchorage schools, with 200 participants on an annual basis.

The groups follow a national curriculum and guide the youth in improving their decision making abilities, self-esteem and plans for the future. Program evaluations have been very positive.

Sincerely,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent



Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4431 • Fax: (907) 343-4499 <http://www.muni.org>

Mayor Mark Begich

Office of the Mayor

March 4, 2008

Representative Kevin Meyer
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Meyer:

I strongly support the request from the YWCA Anchorage for \$50,000 in funding for its Youth Development Programs. The YWCA's Youth Development Programs serve 560 youth each year.

These programs are unique and focus on helping youth recognize their strengths and gain the decision making skills needed to avoid risky behavior and plan for a healthy future.

In particular, the YWCA's Girls Circles and Boys Councils are facilitated groups, held after school or during lunch at 18 different K-12 schools. In the groups, using a national curriculum, youth learn resiliency, how to make healthy choices and how to develop their full potential. The YWCA is one of the first sites in the nation to hold Boys Councils, specifically designed to address the needs of boys.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich
Mayor

Cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

Community, Security, Prosperity



Municipality of Anchorage

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Mayor Mark Begich

Office of the Mayor

March 4, 2008

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Hoffman:

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Mayor

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Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

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Mayor Mark Begich

Office of the Mayor

March 4, 2008

Senator Bert Stedman
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stedman:

I strongly support the request from the YWCA Anchorage for \$50,000 in funding for its Youth Development Programs. The YWCA's Youth Development Programs serve 560 youth each year.

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Mayor

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Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

Community, Security, Prosperity



March 5, 2008

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

Dear Sirs:

We are pleased to strongly recommend and urge your support for the request from the YMCA Anchorage for \$50,000 in funding for its programs.

YWCA Anchorage has been a very strong and successful partner with schools and organizations in the Anchorage area, serving young girls with a leading national gender-responsive model, the Girls Circle model, for girls in school and after school programs. In addition, the YWCA is now offering the Boys Council group programs to boys to strengthen their healthy development and social engagement.

YWCA Anchorage's effective leadership has made a difference for youth in the city of Anchorage and surrounding areas. Girls and boys including native youth, and youth of all racial-ethnic and economic backgrounds are being served in prevention settings and in juvenile justice programs. This school year, over 36 circles serving 232 girls and 49 boys are receiving these state of the art programs due to the YWCA Anchorage's commitment to youth.

As Founders of the Girls Circle and Boys Council models, we have been tremendously pleased and grateful for the YWCA Anchorage's commitment to serving youth with these strengths-based approaches. Our research based Girls Circle model has been shown to ***decrease girls' risk-related behaviors such as alcohol use and self-harm, and to increase girls' attachment to school and to positive adults and peers.***

YWCA Anchorage leaders have demonstrated their effectiveness in these programs in various ways. First, they've sought training and provided supervision and quality assurance to run the programs with fidelity and consistency. Second, they've invited other local service providers to share in the model training so that youth can access a successful model potentially wherever they may be receiving services. Third, YWCA Anchorage has provided repeat opportunities for training in order to maintain skills and increase capacity of their staff, volunteers, and colleagues on school sites. We understand that school principals have now recognized the YWCA Anchorage's Girls Circle program as a key strategy to promote wellness and safety on school campuses. Fourth, YWCA Anchorage is committed to providing research-based programs, and is now one of several organizations to pilot a national Boys Council research study this Spring, 2008.

YWCA Anchorage is an exemplary partner in bringing high quality services to the youth of Anchorage. These services are making a significant difference in the everyday lives of youth, as those served are able to develop positive identities and healthy relationships to navigate through the multitude of challenges of adolescent life.

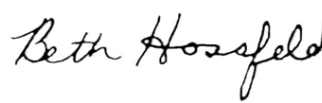
It is with pleasure and confidence that we urge your support of the \$50,000. funding request for YWCA Anchorage programs. We know these dollars will be applied with great skill and care for the healthy development of Anchorage's youth.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Respectfully yours,



Giovanna Taormina
Executive Director
Girls Circle Association



Beth Hossfeld, MFT
Associate Director
Girls Circle Association